

Corps of Engineers to increase Libby Dam flows to 28,000 cfs when spring rise begins

CONTACT: Cindy Henriksen (503)808-3945 Nola Leyde (206)764-6896

April 16, 2007

PORLAND -- Reservoir regulators at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be increasing outflows from Libby Dam to powerhouse capacity, 28,000 cubic feet per second, as soon as the spring rise on Kootenay Lake begins. After an analysis of current conditions, the water supply forecast and other current and predicted conditions, the Corps is increasing outflows now in an effort to avoid potential downstream flood impacts later in the season.

Outflows are anticipated to continue at 28,000 cfs through the powerhouse until the designated spring refill period begins for Lake Koocanusa.

This operation is consistent with the Corps' January 2007 decision to operate Libby Dam strictly in accordance with VARQ operating procedures as described and evaluated in the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Decision document signed 31 December 2002 for interim implementation of VARQ flood control with fish flows ([http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/ers/reposit/Interim\\_VARQ\\_Final\\_EA.pdf](http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/ers/reposit/Interim_VARQ_Final_EA.pdf) ).

The Corps operates and maintains Libby Dam for multiple uses that are consistent with project authorizations and applicable laws and regulations. The Corps' primary consideration is minimizing risk to human life, health and safety while meeting Libby Dam's multiple purposes and responsibilities.

For more information about Libby Dam operations, use the following website links.

Hourly outflow and elevation information for Libby Dam:

[http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/ftppub/project\\_data/hourly/lib\\_0daysback.txt](http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/ftppub/project_data/hourly/lib_0daysback.txt)

Daily averages for Libby Dam:

[http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/ftppub/project\\_data/daily/lib.txt](http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/ftppub/project_data/daily/lib.txt)

For more information on the Columbia Basin Water Management Division:

<http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/>

For real-time river basin information from the Reservoir Control Center:

<http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/nws/hh/index.html>